

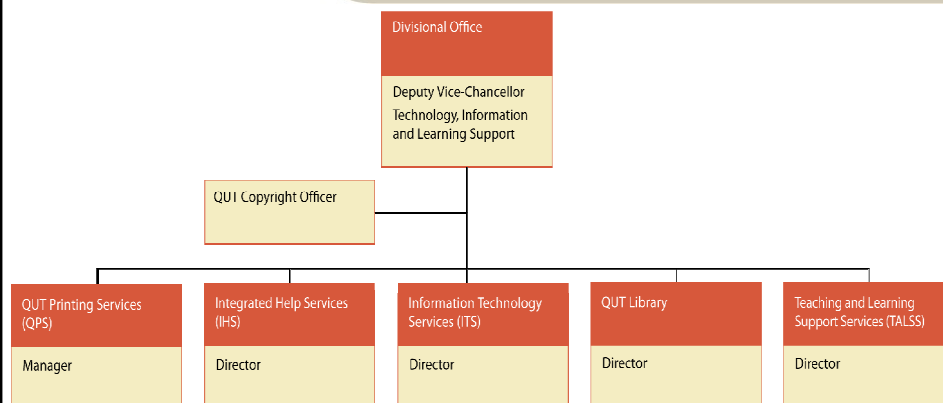
A University Support Model for eResearch

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eResearch @ QUT - a current perspective

eResearch @ QUT

- Underpinning infrastructure:
 - university repository (QUT ePrints)
 - High Performance Computing and data visualisation services
 - corporate wiki for collaboration;
 - ESOE (Enterprise Sign On Engine) - AAF compliant
 - implementing Enterprise Data Management System
- Established eResearch Working Party (2006)
- National and State engagement in relevant government bodies
- Recognised research centres focused on eResearch

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The eResearch Support Service Project

eResearch @ QUT

- Primary objective: scope a service model to support eResearch @ QUT
- Preliminary activities:
 - TILS Division Research Support Strategic Plan 2007-2009
 - Survey of data management practices at QUT
 - Data pilots with key research professors & Research Students' Centre
 - Creative industries, Institute for Sustainable Resources, Built Environment & Engineering

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- Growing dependence on **data** which:
 - is routinely generated by simulation; captured in many ways; manipulated, mined, transformed, linked and re-purposed
 - is growing in size
 - is becoming more complex and more specialised
 - requires sophisticated data management practices
- Increased use of **computation** and **visualisation**
- **Collaboration** to support multidisciplinary research
- Increasing emphasis on **digital rights management**
- **Open Access** to research output

- Joint survey of researchers' data management practices (November 2007)
- Most outstanding finding: the similar pattern of institutional responses
- Key outcomes:
 - 90% of researchers work generates digital data.
 - popular software used by many + a very long tail of other software used by a few /one researcher.
 - most back up on more than one system – (i.e.USBs, CDROMs and DVDs etc.)
 - Over 60% willing to share their data; most prefer "via negotiated access".
 - Most think data will have value beyond 5 years
 - Over 75% want training in research data management.

"In a large, distributed, complex beast like {this university}, the diversity of practice across a wide range of research disciplines means that evolving the infrastructure needed to support research in the digital era is not going to be easy. It is however, essential. We have to be prepared to make mistakes, to try things out and experiment. We have to be very conscious of the broader framework in which we are working and constantly try to reveal the deeper principles of practice. Consequently, we have to be careful not to limit our research record management practices to what the current technology offers – as this will have changed during the life of the project. On the other hand, we do have to use the latest digital technologies to the best of our abilities to bring increased productivity and services to researchers. We have just entered the 'Wright Brothers' phase of the Digital Era."

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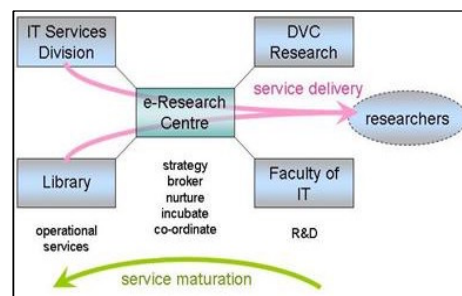
(Survey of researchers' practices, 2007)



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Supporting eResearch - other models

- Although significant eResearch activity, we could only identify a few institutions that have begun to provide an eResearch Support Service *per se*.
- The Monash University combined elements of a similar nature to QUT.



Monash University e-Research Centre

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Australian Code for Responsible Conduct of Research (2007)

Institutions must have:

“... a policy on the retention of materials and research data”

“... must provide facilities for the safe and secure storage of research data and for maintaining records of where research data is stored”

“... must have a policy on the ownership of research materials and data during and following the research project.”

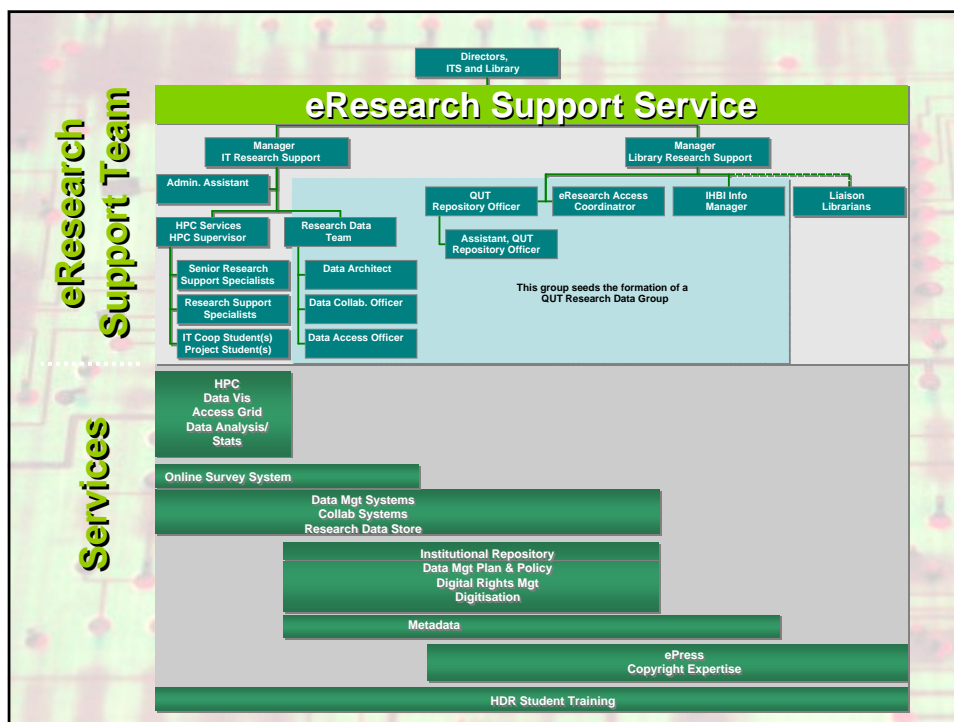
“... must have a policy on the ownership of, and access to, databases and archives that is consistent with confidentiality requirements, legislation, privacy rules and other guidelines.”

The ARC Funding Agreement - Discovery Projects Part 20

- research outputs including data and publications should be **lodged in an appropriate institutional or disciplinary repository** within 6 months of the completion of the ARC funded project or detail the reasons for not doing so in the Project's Final Report.

- Framed a project and sourced funding
- Looked at QUT's Current Situation
- What skills are needed to support eResearch? - Margaret Henty's work
- Where is the existing, relevant skill base at QUT?
- What critical links does the service need into the organisation?
- Issues workshop for relevant QUT staff

- The Office of Research and Research Students' Centre
- Underpinning infrastructure services - e.g., IT Services Infrastructure Services section
- University research groups whose research involves eResearch tools and issues:
 - Faculty of IT (computer scientists) - Microsoft QUT eResearch Centre
 - OAKLaw researchers - legal protocols for managing copyright issues
- Other groups within the University that support research and/ or eResearch.
- National NCRIS programs - ANDS, ARCS, NCI, AAF



QUT **Key Recommendations**

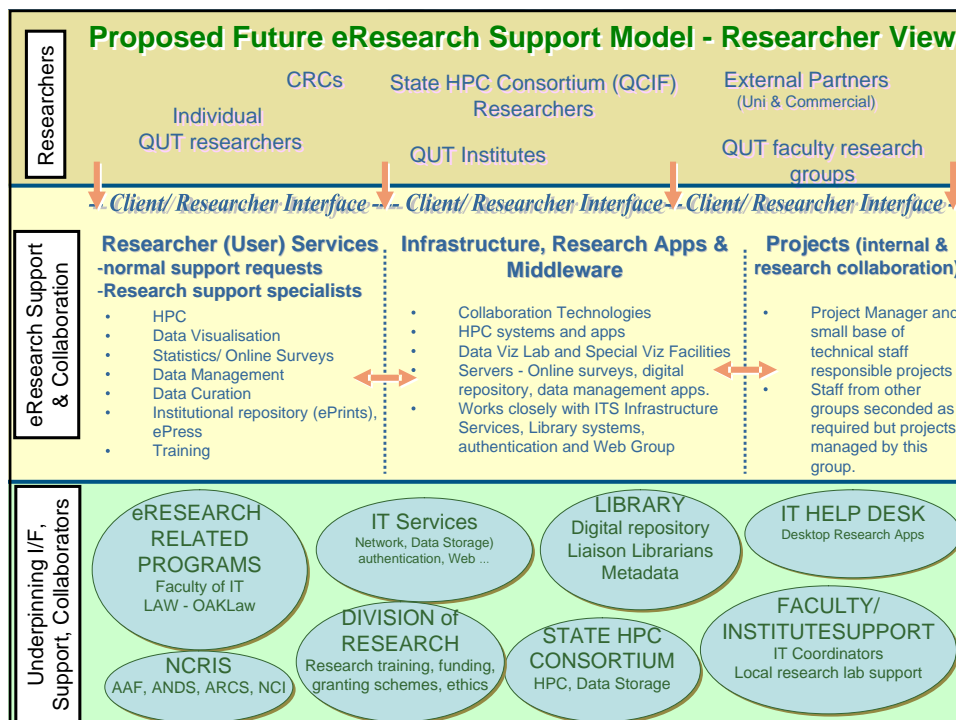
eResearch @ QUT

- Revise university **research data management policy**
- Prepare a **Data Management Plan template** and a **training program** for researchers
- **Implement the Initial eResearch Support Service model** - review after two years, considering possible Future Model for eResearch Support
- **Co-locate** eResearch Support Service staff where possible so that they can establish themselves as a team
- Seek **sustainable funding** for the eResearch Support Service from 2009 to end reliance on soft money for existing services and to provide new services
- Provide a **central, QUT data store for research data** as part of the larger Enterprise Data Management system

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- Complete current **research data management pilots** + undertake new data pilots
- Investigate and select research **data management technologies and applications**
- Develop **staff expertise and knowledge**; **co-locate** staff where appropriate
- Identify researchers with **significant research data sets** and collaborate with a view to adding to the ANDS Data Commons.
- Begin a **promotion and training program** with researchers.



Thank you for your attention.

Questions?